

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12 (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A reel for winding or unwinding reelable, strip-shaped objects comprising:

a support surface that extends in the main as a cylinder;

a hub arranged to rotate about an axis in order to allow rotation of the support surface about said axis;

an adjusting device arranged to cooperate with the support surface in order thereby to vary the diameter of the support surface, wherein the support surface is arranged at a flexible element consisting essentially of a continuous circumferential piece and that the adjusting device is arranged to affect said support surface to alter its shape, whereby the diameter of the support surface is varied; and

at least one support ring provided with an opening, which support ring is arranged internally of the support surface, where the support ring at least partially bears against an internal surface of the flexible element, the support ring comprises at least one elongated shank and the hub, wherein the support ring is arranged to run in a groove on the inside of the flexible element, where the groove is arranged in a plane that is essentially parallel to the direction of rotation of the reel.

14. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 13, wherein said support surface all together constitutes at least 270° of the circumferential extension of said support surface.
15. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 13, wherein said support surface comprises an axial through opening.
16. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 14, wherein said support surface comprises an axial through opening.
17. (Currently Amended) A reel according to claim 15 44, wherein said opening has an extension along the circumference of said support surface that is proportional to a diameter variation (D1-D2) of the reel, so that  $b = \pi(D1 - D2)$ .

18. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 15, wherein said opening has an extension along the circumference of said support surface that is proportional to a diameter variation ( $D1-D2$ ) of the reel, so that  $b = \pi(D1-D2)$ .
19. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 13, wherein said adjusting device comprises a force exerting device that is arranged to affect the support surface with a force, the component force of which being a chord in an imaginary circle the surface of which coincides with said support surface.
20. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 14, wherein said adjusting device comprises a force exerting device that is arranged to affect the support surface with a force, the component force of which being a chord in an imaginary circle the surface of which coincides with said support surface.
21. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 17, wherein said adjusting device comprises a force exerting device that is arranged to affect the support surface with a force, the component force of which being a chord in an imaginary circle the surface of which coincides with said support surface.
22. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 20, wherein the force exerting device cooperates with at least one engagement means that are connected to said flexible element and where the engagement means are placed internally of said flexible element.
23. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 21, wherein the force exerting device cooperates with at least one engagement means that are connected to said flexible element and where the engagement means are placed internally of said flexible element.
24. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 22, wherein the force exerting device cooperates with said engagement means by at least one pivotal attachment.

25. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 23, wherein the force exerting device cooperates with said engagement means by at least one pivotal attachment.
26. (Canceled)
27. (Canceled)
28. (Canceled).
29. (Currently Amended) A reel according to claim 13 28, wherein in a position in which the reel is completely expanded, the support ring has a circumferential extension that is shorter than the circumferential extension of the support surface, and where a distance from the end of one shank to an edge at the opening of the support surface is essentially equal to the extension along the circumference of said support surface.
30. (Previously presented) A reel according to claim 13, wherein the strip shaped objects are steel strips.
31. (Canceled)
32. (New) A reel according to claim 13, wherein the support ring preferably is essentially parallel to a radial cross-section of the support surface.
33. (New) A reel according to claim 13, wherein said support ring further comprises engagement means, and that the at least one elongated shank, the hub and the engagement means are connected to each other.
34. (New) A reel according to claim 13, wherein said support ring further comprises engagement means, and that the at least one elongated shank, the hub and the engagement means are integrated.